

Professional Standards and Certifications Related to the Field

The following certifications are related directly or indirectly to peer learning programs. Many peer learning programs select one or more of the following certification programs to both improve their program's practice and gain recognition for it. The expectations for the tutor certifications listed below are flexible and can accommodate most peer learning programs such as Supplemental Instruction. More information about these sponsoring organizations is provided elsewhere on this web site.

- **ATP Tutor Certification** (<http://www.jsu.edu/depart/edprof/atp/cert.htm> . The Association certifies both tutors and tutor trainers. For tutors, the program grants certification at the following levels: Associate Tutor, Advanced Tutor, and Master Tutor. For tutor trainers, two levels of certification are available: Tutor Trainer and Master Tutor Trainer.
- **Council for the Advancement of Standards (CAS)**, (<http://www.cas.edu> . CAS has been the pre-eminent force for promoting standards in student affairs, student services, and student development programs since its inception in 1979. CAS publishes the *Book of Professional Standards and Guidelines and Self-Assessment Guides* that are designed to lead to a host of quality-controlled programs and services. Several of these related directly to the field of learning assistance: academic advising, counseling services, disability support services, learning assistance programs, student orientation programs, and TRIO and other educational opportunity programs. Representatives from the leading learning assistance associations led the work teams that developed learning assistance standards.
- **CRLA International Tutor Program Certification** (<http://crla.net> . The purpose of this program is to provide recognition and positive reinforcement for tutors' successful work from an international organization, CRLA. Second, its certification process sets a standard of skills and training for tutors. CRLA certifies programs, not individual tutors. In other words, CRLA certifies that a particular tutor training program is qualified to issue CRLA certificates to individual tutors at certain levels. Since March 1989, over 700 college and university tutorial programs in the United States and Canada have received tutor training certification. There are three levels of certification: Regular, Advanced, and Master. Each level requires an additional ten hours of training and 25 hours of experience. After meeting the requirements for an initial institutional certification for one year, CRLA offers a three-year renewal certification which can be followed by a five-year recertification.
- **CRLA International Mentor Program Certification** (<http://crla.net>). Patterned after the CRLA Peer Tutor Program Certification, the program provides two training options for certification of mentors.

- **NADE Program Component Certification** (<http://nade.net>). Certification is offered in component areas of learning assistance such as course-based learning assistance (such as Peer-Led Team Learning or Supplemental Instruction), tutoring, and developmental coursework (such as reading, writing, and mathematics). There are different levels of certification available for each component. Workshops are held in conjunction with state and national conferences throughout the year to assist interested individuals with understanding the extensive program self-review and successfully completing the application process. NADE also has published a print guide for individuals to independently assess their programs and develop action plans for their improvement, *NADE Self-Evaluation Guides: Models for Assessing Learning Assistance/Developmental Education Programs* (H&H Publishing, Clearwater, FL).
- **NCLCA Learning Center Leadership Certification.** Certification through (<http://www.nclca.org/>) NCLCA provides validation of individuals' expertise in the field of learning assistance through external and objective review. The program is flexible and designed to meet the different career paths and goals of learning assistance professionals. Besides providing a standard of credentialing and continuing professional development, certification can be used by learning center directors and learning assistance professionals as rewards and incentives for better performance appraisals and as part of benchmarking the attainment of staff members in reports to their institutions.
- **NTA Individual and Program-level Certification** (<http://ntatutor.org>). Certification through the NTA can be earned at an Individual Level or Program Level. Individuals and/or programs at K-16 institutes, community programs, and private practices may apply for certification. Individuals may seek certification as a Peer Tutor, Paraprofessional Tutor, Professional Tutor, or Tutor Administrator/Director. Three levels of certification are available: Basic, Advanced, and Master. Individuals may seek certification as an Academic Coach. Three levels of certification are available: Peer Student Coach, Professional Coach and Master Professional Coach. Discipline specific certification endorsements are available in the following areas: writing, reading, science, math, and languages.